

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1 1. A method comprising:  
2 maintaining in a first server unique references to  
3 content received from primary servers;  
4 maintaining an index containing the unique references to  
5 the content; and  
6 notifying a secondary server when updated content has  
7 been added to the first server.

1 2. The method of claim 1 further comprising notifying the  
2 secondary server when content has expired.

1 3. The method of claim 1 wherein the unique references refer  
2 to local content.

1 4. The method of claim 1 wherein the unique references refer  
2 to pointers to content.

1 5. The method of claim 1 further including passing one of  
2 the unique references to the secondary server for use in  
3 fetching the content.

1 6. The method of claim 5 wherein the secondary server  
2 manages its cache size in relationship to fetched content or  
3 metadata.

1 7. The method of claim 6 further comprising:  
2 fetching the content in the secondary server; and  
3 checking a size of the fetched content with a size of the  
4 cache containing current content in the secondary server.

1 8. The method of claim 5 wherein the secondary server  
2 manages its cache size in relationship to previously fetched  
3 content or metadata.

1 9. The method of claim 5 wherein passing further comprises  
2 copying content identified by the unique reference to the  
3 secondary server.

1 10. The method of claim 9 further comprising checking the  
2 secondary server to determine whether the content is already  
3 present.

1 11. The method of claim 9 wherein passing further comprises  
2 copying metadata associated with the content identified by the  
3 unique reference to the secondary server.

1 12. The method of claim 1 further comprising delivering the  
2 copied content to a user system.

1 13. The method of claim 1 further comprising receiving a user  
2 request and effecting the delivering in response to the user  
3 request.

1 14. The method of claim 5 wherein passing further comprises  
2 verifying that the secondary server is authorized to receive  
3 content.

1 15. The method of claim 5 wherein passing further comprises  
2 updating a tracking file that reflects a user request for  
3 content.

1 16. The method of claim 5 wherein the passing further  
2 comprises updating a tracking file that reflects maintaining  
3 and notifying.

1 17. The method of claim 1 wherein the secondary server  
2 maintains the index.

1 18. The method of claim 17 wherein the secondary server  
2 notifies a tertiary server when content expires.

1 19. The method of claim 18 wherein the secondary server  
2 passes one of the unique references to the tertiary server.

1 20. The method of claim 19 wherein the secondary server  
2 verifies that the tertiary server is authorized to receive  
3 content.

1 21. The method of claim 19 wherein the secondary server  
2 maintains and updates a tracking file that reflects actions  
3 performed with the index.

1 22. A computer program product residing on a computer  
2 readable medium having instructions stored thereon which, when  
3 executed by the processor, cause the processor to:

4 maintain in a first server unique references to content  
5 received from primary servers;

6 maintain an index containing the unique references to the  
7 content; and

8 notify a secondary server when updated content has been  
9 added to the first server.

1 23. The computer program product of claim 22 wherein the  
2 computer readable medium comprises a random access memory  
3 (RAM) .

1 24. The computer program product of claim 22 wherein the  
2 computer readable medium comprises read only memory (ROM) .

1 25. The computer program product of claim 22 wherein the  
2 computer readable medium comprises a hard disk drive.  
1

1 26. A processor and a memory configured to:

2 maintain in a first server unique references to content  
3 received from primary servers;

4 maintain an index containing the unique references to the  
5 content; and

6 notify a secondary server when updated content has been  
7 added to the first server.

1 27. A method comprising:

2 maintaining a store of content received from primary  
3 servers in a first server;

4 maintaining an index containing unique references to the  
5 content residing in the store;

6 receiving a user request for content at a secondary  
7 server;

8 passing a unique reference associated with the user  
9 requested content to the secondary server; and

10 copying the content associated with the unique reference  
11 from the store to the secondary server.

1 28. The method of claim 27 wherein the secondary server  
2 manages its cache size in relationship to fetched content.

1 29. The method of claim 28 further comprising:

2 fetching the content in the secondary server; and

3 checking a size of the fetched content with a size of the  
4 cache containing current content in the secondary server.

1 30. The method of claim 27 further comprising notifying the  
2 secondary server when content has expired.

1 31. The method of claim 27 further comprising delivering the  
2 user requested content from the secondary server to a user  
3 system.

1 32. The method of claim 27 wherein passing further comprises  
2 verifying whether the secondary server is authorized to  
3 receive the unique reference.

1 33. The method of claim 27 further comprising accumulating  
2 data that represents tracking user requests for content.

1 34. The method of claim 27 further comprising accumulating  
2 data that represents tracking the maintaining, receiving,  
3 passing and copying.

1 35. The method of claim 33 further comprising:  
2 analyzing the data in response to requests from the  
3 primary servers; and  
4 generating reports from the analyzed data.

1 36. The method of claim 34 further comprising:  
2 analyzing the data in response to requests from the  
3 primary servers; and  
4 generating reports from the analyzed data.

1 37. The method of claim 27 wherein the secondary server  
2 maintains the index.

1 38. The method of claim 37 wherein the secondary server  
2 notifies a tertiary server when content expires.

1 39. The method of claim 38 wherein the secondary server  
2 passes one of the unique references to the tertiary server.

1 40. The method of claim 39 wherein the secondary server  
2 verifies that the tertiary server is authorized to receive  
3 content.

1 41. The method of claim 39 wherein the secondary server  
2 maintains and updates a tracking file that reflects actions  
3 performed with the index.

1 42. A computer program product residing on a computer  
2 readable medium having instructions stored thereon which, when  
3 executed by the processor, cause the processor to:

4 maintain a store of content received from primary servers  
5 in a first server;

6 maintain an index containing unique references to the  
7 content residing in the store;

8 receive a user request for content at a secondary server;

pass a unique reference associated with the user  
requested content to the secondary server; and  
copy the content associated with the unique reference  
from the store to the secondary server.

43. A processor and a memory configured to:

maintain a store of content received from primary servers  
in a first server;

maintain an index containing unique references to the  
content residing in the store;

receive a user request for content at a secondary server;  
pass a unique reference associated with the user  
requested content to the secondary server; and

copy the content associated with the unique reference  
from the store to the secondary server.

44. A system comprising:

a plurality of content origination servers linked to a  
first server;

a plurality of servers linked to the first server, the  
first server comprising:

a store for maintaining and distributing content received  
from the primary servers;

means for maintaining an index of unique identifiers  
associated with the stored content;

means for passing one of the unique identifiers to one of  
the servers; and



means for delivering the content associated with a unique identifier to the server.

45. The system of claim 44 further comprising means for notifying the server when content has expired.

46. The system of claim 44 where the means for passing also comprises a means for authenticating that the server is authorized to received the unique identifier.

47. The system of claim 44 also comprising means for notifying the server when content associated with a unique identifier is updated.

48. A method comprising:

on a server, storing content that has been requested by a previous user and has not expired,

serving the unexpired, previously requested content from the web server to a current user in response to a request,

if the current user requests content that is not stored on the web server, obtaining the content from a central location and storing it in the server for use in responding to later user requests, and

removing expired content from the web server.

49. The method of claim 48 also comprising informing the server when content has expired.

50. The method of claim 48 further comprising

on the server, communicating with a remote process on a remote server, the remote process caching content.

51. A method comprising:

maintaining in a first server unique references to content received from primary servers; and  
notifying a secondary server when content has expired.

52. The method of claim 51 further comprising notifying the secondary server when updated content has been added to the first server.

53. The method of claim 51 further comprising maintaining an index containing the unique references to the content.

54. The method of claim 51 wherein the unique references refer to local content.

55. The method of claim 51 wherein the unique references refer to pointers to content.

56. The method of claim 51 further including passing one of the unique references to the secondary server for use in fetching the content.

57. The method of claim 56 wherein the secondary server manages its cache size in relationship to fetched content or metadata.

58. The method of claim 57 further comprising:

fetching the content in the secondary server; and  
checking a size of the fetched content with a size of the  
cache containing current content in the secondary server.

59. The method of claim 56 wherein the secondary server  
manages its cache size in relationship to previously fetched  
content or metadata.

60. The method of claim 56 wherein passing further comprises  
copying content identified by the unique reference to the  
secondary server.

61. The method of claim 60 further comprising checking the  
secondary server to determine whether the content is already  
present.

62. The method of claim 60 wherein passing further comprises  
copying metadata associated with the content identified by the  
unique reference to the secondary server.

63. The method of claim 60 further comprising delivering the  
copied content to a user system.

64. The method of claim 51 further comprising receiving a  
user request and effecting a delivering in response to the  
user request.

1 65. The method of claim 56 wherein passing further comprises  
2 verifying that the secondary server is authorized to receive  
3 content.

1 66. The method of claim 56 wherein passing further comprises  
2 updating a tracking file that reflects a user request for  
3 content.

1 67. The method of claim 56 wherein the passing further  
2 comprises updating a tracking file that reflects maintaining  
3 and notifying.

1 68. The method of claim 53 wherein the secondary server  
2 maintains the index.

1 69. The method of claim 68 wherein the secondary server  
2 notifies a tertiary server when content expires.

1 70. The method of claim 69 wherein the secondary server  
2 passes one of the unique references to the tertiary server.

1 71. The method of claim 70 wherein the secondary server  
2 verifies that the tertiary server is authorized to receive  
3 content.

1 72. The method of claim 70 wherein the secondary server  
2 maintains and updates a tracking file that reflects actions  
3 performed with the index.